

MONT. 17-51-17

McPherson-Harper House  
Private  
Jerusalem (Poolesville vicinity)

1913

This handsome two story frame house was built as the residence for a Black landowning family, the McPhersons. Earlier they had lived as tenants in a smaller log house nearby, and this new house they had built, represents the transition in housing made possible by economic advancement and landownership.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC McPherson-Harper House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER West side of Jerusalem Rd Church Road

CITY, TOWN  
Jerusalem☒ VICINITY OF PolesvilleCONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
3STATE  
Md.COUNTY  
Montgomery'**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME J.C. and E E. Harper

Telephone #: 972-8765

STREET & NUMBER  
18640 Jerusalem Church Rd.CITY, TOWN  
Poolesville☒ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code  
Md.**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE.  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Land records, County CourthouseLiber #: 1053  
Folio #: 50

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
RockvilleSTATE  
Md.**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE  
None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M: 17-51-17

**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This handsome two story frame house stands on the west side of Jerusalem Church, facing east. It is shaded in front by large cedar trees, and to the north by a large English walnut. Behind the house and on the northern and southern sides are very well-kept lawns with flowers, shrubs, and more trees. Beyond the lawn on the south side is a large, carefully tended vegetable garden. Northwest of the house are several frame outbuildings.

The front of the house is sheltered by a shed porch with aluminum awnings. The shed roof of the porch is supported by wrought iron posts with iron railings between them. The facade is three bays in length, containing a door centrally located flanked by two windows on either side. The windows are decorated on the outside with colorful shutters. The frame of the house was originally covered with weatherboards, but today it is covered with aluminum siding. The roof line is accented by a cross gable pediment.

In plan, the house contains two rooms down and two up. A brick stove flue ascends the inside of each gable end and has openings for stove pipes on each floor; all the rooms were therefore heated. The walls inside were lathed and plastered.

Notes: Oral Interviews with Ora Lyles, Joseph Harper, and Evelyn Harper

Jerusalem Church Rd.  
Jerusalem  
August, 1978

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

*Black History*

SPECIFIC DATES

*C. 1913*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Deed 668/65 shows that Charles McPherson purchased this property in 1913 from the Poole family. The house was built at that time, according to his daughter, Ora McPherson Lyles, who lives next door to the property today. The house is representative of the type built by prosperous Black landowners near the turn of the century.

As part of this survey, the family photographs of Charles McPherson and his wife Josephine Duffin McPherson were copied. They are in the possession of Ora Lyles. Also copied was their marriage license. See the survey report for the George and Ora Lyles in Jerusalem for copies of these pictures, and for a brief history of the family.

In 1946 this property was purchased by Joseph and Evelyn Harper from Charles McPherson (deed, 1053/50) after Harper's return from active duty in the Army Infantry in World War II. Both Evelyn and Joseph Harper were raised in the Jerusalem and Jonesville communities and attended the Poolesville school. A photograph of Evelyn Moore Harper's father was copied, William Hartley Moore. A photograph of Joseph Harper's mother was copied too, Rachel Ann Hall Harper. She was from Jonesville and was born in 1866, the daughter of Evelyn and Rachel Hall, who were landowners. She married Richard Thomas Harper, but no pictures are available of him.

According to Joseph Harper, his father (Richard Thomas Harper) had two sisters. One was named Julia; she married Henry Payne. Her photograph was copied as part of the survey of the Beatrice Payne Jackson survey.

The other sister, Ida, married Basil Bailey, whose home on Cattail Rd. has also been surveyed.

Their mother was named Melinda Harper, according to Joseph Harper. He does not recall her husband's name, (his grandfather).

Also in the Harper's possession were photographs of classes at Poolesville school taken in about 1912, 1930, and 1933. See the survey report of Poolesville school for further details.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville  
 Oral Interviews with Ora Lyles, and Joseph and Evelyn Harper,  
 Jerusalem, August, 1978.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel & Weslie Stubbs

10/78

ORGANIZATION

SRT

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

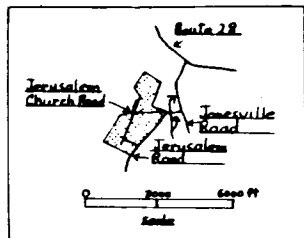
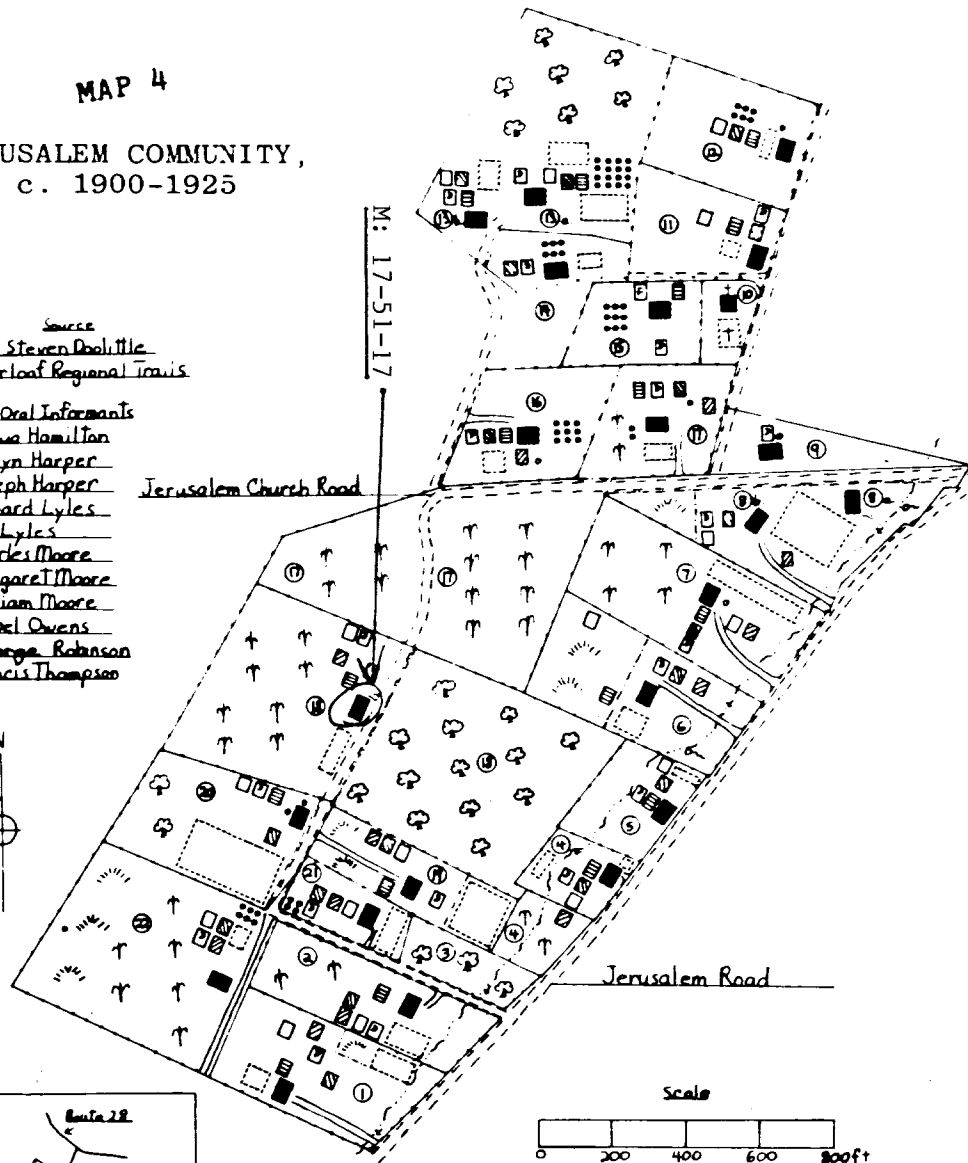
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

MAP 4  
JERUSALEM COMMUNITY,  
c. 1900-1925

Source  
Steven Doolittle  
Sugarloaf Regional Trails

Oral Informants  
Joshua Hamilton  
Evelyn Harper  
Joseph Harper  
Howard Lyles  
Ora Lyles  
Charles Moore  
Margaret Moore  
William Moore  
Isabel Owens  
George Robinson  
Francis Thompson



Key

CHURCH	
CEMETERY	
LODGE	
COMMUNITY CENTER	
STORE	
POST OFFICE	
SCHOOL	
DWELLING	
PRIVY	
STABLE	
MEAT HOUSE	
HEN HOUSE	
MILK HOUSE	
CORN/FEED HOUSE	
PIG PEN	
GARDEN	
PASTURE	
CORNFIELD	
HAY FIELD	
ORCHARD	
FOREST	
THICKET	
WELL	
SPRING	
STREAM	
POND	
PARCEL BOUNDARY	
FENCED PARCEL BDY.	
FENCE	
DIRT ROAD	
LANE	
PATH	
STREAM FLOW	

DWELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
HSTD. = HOMESTEAD PROP. = PROPERTY

1. WILLIAM ROBINSON ESTD.	3.22 AC.
2. SARAH JOHNSON ESTD.	2.00 AC.
3. MILTON HARPER ESTD.	1.00 AC.
4. WILLIAM LYLES ESTD.	2.00 AC.
5. SUSAN PROCTOR ESTD.	1.00 AC.
6. FRANK DORSEY ESTD.	2.90 AC.
7. GEORGE DORSEY ESTD.	4.75 AC.
8a. 1st CLARKE HOME (log)	4.40 AC.
b. 2nd CLARKE HOME (frame)	
9. JERUSALEM PARSONAGE	1.50 AC.
10. JERUSALEM CHURCH	0.50 AC.
11. WILLIAM DORSEY ESTD.	2.00 AC.
12. JAMES DORSEY ESTD.	3.00 AC.
13a. WILLIAM MOORE ESTD.	7.00 AC.
b. HARTLEY MOORE ESTD.	
14. DAVID COPELAND ESTD.	2.00 AC.
15. ROBERT WILLIAMS ESTD.	3.75 AC.
16. WALLACE HAMILTON ESTD.	2.50 AC.
17. DENNIS HAMILTON ESTD.	9.66 AC.
18. CHARLES McPHERSON ESTD.	11.00 AC.
19. LIZZIE GRIMES ESTD.	4.00 AC.
20. GEORGE LYLES ESTD.	3.00 AC.
21. JOHN HARPER ESTD.	1.00 AC.
22. JOHN HALLMAN ESTD.	10.00 AC.







McPherson House

M-17-51-17

W. View: Rear Elev.

Jerusalem

Anne Lewis

10/78

145-24



McPherson-Harper House

S.E. Elevation (facade)

Jerusalem community

M-17-51-17

photograph: George M. David

2/78